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California GARDEN

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September/October 2007

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From the President

As San Diego Floral Association reaches the mid-point of its Centennial year, many of us have observed an increased interest from members and the public in our events and activities. Stimulating program presenters like Felder Rushing and Lee Burcher helped fill Room 101 in Casa del Prado with members and guests. On October 16, Nancy Carter, USD historian, will share her research on Kate Sessions, one of our most outstanding founding members. Join us for a slice of Kate's birthday cake as we celebrate her November birthday.

In addition to enhanced programs, we have received press attention through community activities like our Tea at the Grant, the rededication of Zoro Garden and butterfly release, our display at the county fair, and our successful Historic Garden Tour. The public is more aware of SDFA's presence in the community, and this helps us increase our membership.

Our August event, Wine at Rosecroft, was an opportunity to recreate the many social activities our members held in this special home and garden. We thank the Cliftons for the opportunity to share the Rosecroft experience once again.

A dream shared by many members was realized when we enhanced our California Garden magazine by adding color and more pages. At the moment, the increased cost is being subsidized by Centennial funds, but we hope to continue to upgrade our publication, which will be 100 years old in 2009.

Another project on the Wish List was the renovation of the SDFA office and library. A donation by Niki and Dee Krutop, augmented by Centennial funds, enabled a committee headed by Lynne Batchelor to "refresh" our surroundings. An open house will be held prior to the October member meeting for your edification.

We're now focusing on the next five years. The long-range plan for our historic organization will capitalize on the momentum we have gained. Our board spent a day in July discussing the "state of Floral" and setting some immediate and long-range goals to help us accomplish our mission. We will share more of this information in our future newsletters.

Each member can play an integral role in ensuring the success and future of the San Diego Floral Association by becoming a more active participant. Please attend the events, volunteer to help, and invite your friends to join our historic group.

Kay Harry

MOVING? Please let us know.

Help us keep membership costs down by informing us of your new address promptly. Fill out this form and fax it to us at 619-232-5762 or mail it to:
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SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

Fall 2007

CRAFT AND FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOPS

❑ **September 18, 2007** **Finish a Basket!**
Teachers: Kathy and Marie Walsh
Come in and repair or finish the basket you never finished! Bring a pail. Added materials fee if you need them. Cost: $5.00

❑ **September 25, 2007** **Pine Needle Basket**
Teachers: Kathy and Marie Walsh.
All materials furnished! Bring a towel and clippers. Cost $25.00 for members, $30.00 for nonmembers.

❑ **October 2, 2007** **Appalachian Basket**
Teachers: Kathy and Marie Walsh
Basket is made of gleaned materials from gardens and parks. Bring bucket, clippers, and towel. Cost: $35; all materials furnished.

❑ **October 9, 2007** **Gourds**
Teacher: M.J. Wydro
Learn to make gourds of all sizes and styles. M.J. will bring everything: gourds, paint, dye, and equipment. Come and enjoy a new hobby with a great teacher. Materials fee to teacher: $10. Cost: $25.00

❑ **October 16, 2007** **Make Table Arrangements**
Together with members of the San Diego Floral Arrangers Guild, prepare table arrangements for the evening dinner meeting. Learn new ideas for table arrangements.

❑ **October 23, 2007** **Bird Feeder or Wind Chime**
Teacher: M.J. Wydro
Learn to cut a gourd and fashion it into a bird feeder or wind chime. Paint and decorate the gourd to ornament your garden. All materials (gourds, paint, dye, and equipment) provided by M.J. Come and make something for your garden with a great teacher. Materials fee to teacher: $10. Cost: $25.00

❑ **October 30 & November 6, 2007** **Floral Design Series**
Teacher: Velma West
Two-class series by SDFA's senior flower-arranging expert. Includes discussion and selection of a new design. October 30: Line and Line-Mass Design. Bring vase and flowers. November 6: A new design from our inventory: underwater, panels, etc. Cost: $45 for members; $50 for nonmembers.

It's easy to register! Just fill out this form (or a copy of it) and mail it to San Diego Floral Association, 1650 El Prado #105, San Diego, CA 92101-1622. Payment for classes must be included.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

All classes 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Room 104, Casa del Prado. Coffee and sweets provided; bring your own lunch and clippers. Call Marie Walsh for information at 619-298-5182. To register and pay, contact SDFA at 619-232-5762. Classes limited to 10 persons and must be prepaid.

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1650 El Prado #105
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Get Ready for Battle of the Bloom

Billed as the "Iron Chef of Floral Design," the Battle of the Bloom is a series of diverse floral design competitions featuring renowned floral designers and local celebrities. The aptly named event, spearheaded by local designer David Root, is a competition among some of California's foremost floral designers. They will appear ready for battle at the San Diego Floral Association's 100th anniversary celebration on Sunday, October 28, 2007, at 3:00 p.m., at the San Diego Museum of Art's Copley Auditorium in Balboa Park. The Battle of the Bloom is being held as part of a series of ongoing public events in a yearlong program designed to increase visibility for San Diego Floral Association.

Six competing showpiece floral arrangements created around the theme "Victory at Sea" will be on display when the event opens. The audience will vote on these designs to determine the People's Choice Award.

Following the presentation of colors and the singing of the National Anthem, the first "surprise package" competition will begin. Garden Club designers will be given identical containers and floral materials to complete a creative design suitable for a formal naval dinner party titled "Dress Whites."

In the second and third rounds of the competition, three renowned professional florists will meet in battle. The second competition has as its theme "A Bridge Too Far." The contestants will be limited to 25 minutes. The third contest, sure to increase the excitement level, will be a round-robin. Each professional will begin three separate designs, rotating every three minutes to the next design for a total of 21 minutes (seven rotations). The three designs will be "Boot Camp," a centerpiece construction in a pair of combat boots (suitable for a GI's going-away party); "Fly Boys," a hanging design to honor Top Gun pilots; and "Camouflage," a vegetative arrangement made in an ammo box (suitable for a Welcome Home party for returning soldiers).

BATTLE OF THE BLOOM
Presented by
SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
Sunday, Oct. 28th doors open @ 3 pm
San Diego Museum of Art Copley Auditorium

Topping off the floral fete will be a celebrity Battle of the Bloom where well-known local personalities will be paired with a floral designer, whose hands will be tied behind his or her back, allowing them to only give verbal advice.

Tickets are $50 for preferred forward seating and $35 for general admission rear seating. Proceeds will benefit San Diego Floral Association. Tickets are available at Walter Andersen Nursery, Mission Hills Nursery, and the San Diego Floral Association office, room 105, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. For information, call 619-232-5762 or visit www.sdfloral.org.—Karin Kratz

Flower Arranging Tips

by Carvill Veech,
member of the Flower Arrangers Guild of SDFA

For interesting dried plant forms, trim Mexican fan palm fronds into desired shape while green and let them dry for as long as a year until a tan color. When dried, they can be used as is or spraypainted to the desired color. The best paint to use to color dried plant material is called "Design Master," available at floral supply houses. It comes in a myriad of colors, dries quickly, and covers well. Several colors can be sprayed in succession to add interest.

Two or more pieces of driftwood or weathered wood or woods of differing colors can be joined with screws or dowels to make an attractive sculpture. Once the desired shape has been made, the entire piece can be sprayed one color, perhaps black, to cover all differences and can be mounted on a base using a strong wooden dowel or rebar.

When arranging flowers, whether in a traditional or creative style, plan on involving the viewer in your design. To draw the viewer's eye into the design, have a dominant element or a focal point, develop depth within the design, establish visual rhythm, and include contrasts in color and texture.

Do your gerbera daisies' stems sag and bend? Make the stems rigid again by placing the gerbera up to its neck in a two-liter or wine bottle full of water for several hours, preferably overnight. For several flowers, you can make a grid with floral tape in the top of a large, deep container. Flowers can be revived several times.

Prosaic Petunias

What better flower to grow for your balcony or patio garden than the petunia? This plant, over the last decade or two, has been disparaged by many gardeners who think that lots of care is necessary to achieve a showy plant. But with new varieties being created and the growth of balcony garden sites, its popularity is now on the rise.

The petunia will grow almost anywhere in our area. Its needs are simple: plenty of sun, fertile soil, and sufficient water. Desert heat is not to their liking, and if your climate freezes in the winter, they can be used in the spring and fall.

Photo courtesy of All-American Selections Image Library, all-americaselections.org

The plant grows low and bushy with large green leaves. The blossoms are available in many colors, from white through pink and red and even yellow and purple. Petunias are not particular about what kind of container or ground they grow in, just as long as they have room to spread.

Monthly fertilizing will keep the blossoms coming. Use an all-purpose fertilizer, either liquid or granular. The blossoms will appear as a bud, then open and spread their color for about a week, then wither. It is wise to remove the withering flowers to spur new flower growth. Pinching back leaf growth judiciously also spurs new growth.—Bob Horwitz

Water, Water Everywhere

Watering your garden by hose spray gives you a direct rapport with all the plants in your garden. Water early in the morning or evening. Even if you have a great irrigation system, your garden should be hosed down once or twice a month during our dusty dry summers. A strong spray replicates a storm cleaning the leaves and flowers of dust and pests. Thirsty plants prefer long and repeated showers. The drought-tolerant plants do well with a quick spray. Often, hummingbirds will come visit closely to enjoy the shower. For deep watering your trees and tropical plants, let your hose drip or trickle for hours. Aerate and deep-water lawns. All irrigated lawns will have some dry areas. These need to be watered deeply by hose for a balanced, green lawn. Mulch your flowerbeds to help retain moisture.—John Noble

A Session on Sessions

The San Diego Floral Association's next meeting will take place on October 16 at 7:00 p.m. with an illustrated talk about Kate O. Sessions by Nancy Carol Carter, Legal Research Center director and professor of law at the University of San Diego. Carter has studied Sessions for two years as a San Diego History Society volunteer and incorporated research on Sessions into horticultural history articles published in the *Journal of San Diego History* and *Pacific Horticulture*. She will address how the horticulturist and nursery owner maintains a San Diego presence through trees planted by her own hand—trees still growing 60 years after her death. A more profound legacy flows from her inquiring mind and magically green hands. She published hundreds of articles on plants and was a gifted grower and propagator. She was early to adopt landscaping appropriate to a desert and had a prescient grasp on the business potential of horticulture in San Diego County. Sessions spent her entire adult life in San Diego, passionately promoting horticulture as an instrument of individual and community betterment.

At the same time, Sessions was a single woman working independently to earn her living in a man's world. She cared nothing about accumulated wealth and her ultimate success was not financial. In her lifetime, she was celebrated by her city and was the first woman awarded the Frank N. Meyer Memorial Medal, an international horticultural prize recognizing outstanding contributions in plant introduction. In death, her name is forever linked with the landscape beauty of San Diego and with one of the nation's great urban spaces, Balboa Park.

The meeting is entitled "Kate O. Sessions: A San Diego Life & Legacy" and will take place in room 101, Casa del Prado, in Balboa Park. An optional catered dinner will be served prior to the meeting at 6 p.m. The cost is $12 for members and $15 for nonmembers. For reservations, call the San Diego Floral Association office at 619-232-5762 before October 15.—Jacqueline Tomlinson

Correction

In our cover story last issue, "A to Z" (CG, July/August 2007), photographer Paul Chesterfield's website was listed incorrectly. The correct address is www.imagesfromnature.net. Please visit the site to see some wonderful photos of butterflies and flowers. We apologize for the error.

Now is the time

African Violets

Barbara Conrad

» Wash your hands and tools after grooming each plant to avoid spreading any unseen insects.
» Toss old violet soil outside after repotting, as the nutrients break down and are no longer helpful to the violet.
» Try your hand at putting down leaves in an equal mixture of perlite and vermiculite to propagate new plants. This process will take two to three months.
» Hold these "mother" leaves almost vertical by propping up with plastic straws or toothpicks as wooden ones rot quickly.
» Create a small greenhouse for new plants with a plastic bag over the top of the pot, secured with a rubber band. Cut a tiny hole for a minimum of air circulation.

Annuals

UC Coop Extension Publications

» Put in transplants of broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower; also aster, baby's breath, Canterbury bell, carnation, cineraria, daisy (African, Shasta, English), delphinium, Chinese forget-me-not, foxglove, hollyhock, lobelia (in September), pot marigold (*Calendula officinalis*), fairy primrose (*Primula malacoides*), snapdragon, stock (*Matthiola incana*) sand verbena (*Abronia umbellata*) ranunculus, sweet William, pansy, and viola.
» Put in seeds of beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chard, endive, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, onions (dry, in October), parsley, parsnips, peas, potatoes (September), radishes, spinach, and turnips; also alyssum, baby blue eyes, baby's breath, bachelor's button, African daisy, candytuft, columbine, gloriosa daisy (in October), delphinium, forget-me-not, Chinese forget-me-not, gazania, hollyhock, and wildflowers.

Begonias

Doris Smith, Alfred D. Robinson Begonia Society

» Feed tuberous begonias in September, then withhold water in October and no more feeding.
» Pinch back and give final feeding to begonias in October, unless you feed all year with a balanced fertilizer.
» Take cuttings and leaves for starting new plants.
» Water sparingly, do not allow to dry out or keep too wet.

Bonsai

San Diego Bonsai Club

» Adjust watering schedule to the variable weather. Shallow pots may require watering two or three times daily on hot, dry, windy days.
» Transplant wisteria if you want blossoms next spring.
» Repot quince, olives, and podocarpus.
» Move deciduous trees to cool shaded areas so they won't sprout growth.
» Fertilize lightly or not at all in October if you fertilized in September.
» Wait until spring for any major transplanting.

Bromeliads

Mary Siemers, Bromeliad Study Group of Balboa Park

» Look out for a change of weather.
» Water frequently in Southern California when the Santa Ana conditions approach.
» Transplant seedlings that have developed three small leaves, using small containers.
» Always provide good drainage.
» Start cleaning plants from summer conditions.
» Cut off spent blooms and dead leaves.
» Flush stagnant water out of center cup to prevent center rot.
» Start planning how you are going to protect plants for the coming cold winter.

Cacti and Succulents

» Watch plants and fertilize less as they go dormant. The winter growers need more fertilizer and water as they start to grow.
» Maintain the growth pattern of the plant. Look for signs of growth as the season changes.
» Watch weather situations as changes can occur very quickly.
» Transplant actively growing seedlings and rooted cuttings now so they can get established before winter.
» Clean the area where plants are grown.
» Prevent insect pests from building into major problems. Look at your plants carefully and check for mealybugs, mites, aphids, and snails; treat appropriately.

Camellias

» Maintain a regular watering program during bud development.
» Feed monthly (September–January) with a bloom-enhancing fertilizer such as 0-10-10 or 2-10-10 to encourage bud development.
» Continue insect control.
» Disbud plants if fewer but larger blooms are desired. The degree of disbudding is a personal decision. Consider leaving one bud per cluster. For show-quality blooms, as few as one bud per branch may be left.
» Enjoy varieties of sasanqua or vernalis species now in bloom.

Dahlias

» Clean up old leaves and stalks, preparing for fall and winter.
» Spray to prevent mildew and spider mites.

» Maintain regular watering through October, then cut down gradually.
» Feed with potash to promote good root growth. It also helps to keep plants healthier during the winter.

Epiphyllums

San Diego Epiphyllum Society

» Protect plants from exposure to direct sunlight.
» Spray-mist to provide moisture during warm spells and keep stems clean and free of dust.
» Prevent soil from completely drying out.
» Protect new growth from wind damage; stake plants and carefully tie to a trellis.
» Check for snails and slugs; a few granules of snail bait at the base of the plant are often effective and leave little or no residue.
» Feed plants with a final feeding of balanced fertilizer before they become semi-dormant.

Ferns

San Diego Fern Society

» Keep removing old fronds.
» Water frequently, as most ferns are still in full growth now.
» Fertilize with half-strength high-nitrogen liquid or slow-release pellets.
» Spray for aphids, thrips, and scale. Keep looking for snails and slugs. Spread bait as needed.
» Watch for giant white flies. Best treated by wiping off egg spirals.
» Collect and sow spores. New ones should be coming regularly.
» Protect your plants from the sun. Very few like full sun these days.

Fruit Trees and Vines

Vincent Lazaneo, UC Coop Extension

» Continue periodic, thorough irrigation to maintain adequate soil moisture until winter rains begin.
» Operate drip irrigation systems until we receive at least two inches of rain; this prevents salt injury.
» Prune out dead and severely damaged shoots of deciduous trees before foliage drops.
» Cover maturing grape clusters with paper bags (poke small holes for ventilation) to protect maturing fruit from yellow jackets and birds.
» Check on maturity of kiwi fruit. Maturity is measured by a change in seed color from white to brown or black. Pick large fruit first, but harvest before fruit softens.

Herbs

John Noble

» Prune summer's dead growth of perennial herbs, such as lavender and rosemary.
» Fertilize and amend all herbal beds.
» Plant perennial herbs—mints, French sorrel, Roman chamomile, comfrey, and a hundred others.
» Dry golden ginkgo leaves and make lots of tea, which is medicinally valuable in maintaining our memories.
» Harvest rosehips and vitex berries.
» Bury saffron bulbs.

Iris

Leon Vogel, San Diego/Imperial Counties Iris Society

» Complete your digging and replanting.
» Fertilize again. Iris plants in Southern California grow all winter.
» Plant any new iris you may have purchased. Be sure to label markers in water-proof ink.
» Keep any weeds under control. Check for aphids and white fly and spray if necessary.
» Pull off and discard all dead leaves.

Native Plants

John Noble

» Plan your native plant garden.
» Prep ground; clear weeds and overgrowth.
» Mulch lightly any bare ground, especially hillsides.
» Dig holes.
» Plant species of Ceanothus, Salvia, Artemisia, Arctostaphylos, Mimulus, and more when a real storm is predicted. After the summer, the ground is baked dry, so fill a hole with water and allow the hole to drain several times before planting.
» Sow wildflower seeds of California poppies, Chinese houses, Goldfields, and Lupines.

Orchids

» Start moving in your indoor/warmer growers when the nocturnal temperature drops to 60-65 degrees (although leave Phalaenopsis hybrids outside until the nighttime temperature drops to 55 degrees Fahrenheit to get them to rebloom).
» Start cutting back on watering as temperatures get cooler.
» Look for spikes on your Phalaenopsis hybrids that you've left out all summer—move them in when you find the new spikes.
» Water extra when we get Santa Anas or similar heat waves in the beginning of the month.
» Look for spikes emerging on many of the Mexican Laelia species and their hybrids.

PELARGONIUMS

Jim Zemcik

» Let your plants perform. Avoid unnecessary pruning or cutting.
» Continue cleaning plants by removing dead, older, and/or damaged leaves. Be especially watchful of geranium rust.
» Continue a steady water cycle. Keep abreast of weather reports. If hot weather is forecast, water before the heat sets in. Do not let plants totally dry out. Water in early morning and/or early

Now is the time

evening for best results. Some geraniums will abort all blooms and drop all lower foliage if allowed to become too dry.

» Continue feeding with a good commercial fertilizer. Use at one-third to one-half of the label's recommended strength. Apply on two-week intervals. If excessive hot weather (above 80 degrees for several days) persists, stop fertilizing. If leaves start to yellow, use an iron supplement such as Ironite as directed.

» Continue to deadhead as soon as blooms pass their peak. The high heat may mark the end of the blooming cycle and deadheading now will promote new growth and additional branching.

» Continue a pest prevention program. Budworms come to their peak at this time. Use a good systemic insecticide for best results. Those using a bio product such as *b. thurengensis* should spray at least every seven days. If you are past the prevention stage and see insects on the plants, a multipurpose product such as Immunox may be very beneficial. These products have an instant kill for all insect pests. Follow manufacturers' recommendations.

» Continue to protect plants from severe sun damage. Keep pots out of full sun. Protect larger pots by surrounding them with pots of shorter growing annuals. It may be beneficial when using plastic pots to place a potted plant into a second, empty container of equal or larger size. This will help insulate the primary pot from the sun's rays and prevent root damage.

» Rotate plants to keep them well-shaped and covered with blooms.

Plumerias

Frank Zotter, Southern California Plumeria Society

» Enjoy old and new varieties of blooms, as they are most prolific now. The more you pick, the more they produce.

» Water more often during Santa Ana. It is a good idea to also spray the whole plant during very hot days. This also adds stability to the plant base.

» Keep fertilizing once a month as in previous growing periods.

» Make sure plants are staked—because of large leaf growth, they become very top heavy. During Santa Anas, they fall easily and you may lose a branch you've been nurturing.

» Stake with metal electrical conduits. Drive the conduit right thru the pot into the soil for maximum stability.

Roses

Al Heck

» Water well. September and October can include some of our hottest and driest days of the year because of Santa Ana conditions. Imagine a cylinder 3' in diameter and 1" deep. That's how much water each rose needs three times per week. If there's a cool spell, you can get away with two times per week.

» Enjoy the final bloom cycle of hybrid tea roses. This is the best bloom since April, because the intense heat of our summers is giving way to more moderate sunlight. The final competitive rose shows of the year are during October. Pick one and enter some of your blooms.

» Remove dust and grime weekly by using a vigorous water spray on the entire rose bush. Roses love it. Spider mites hate it.

» Plant roses that you forgot about and left in pots waiting for just this moment. They will have developed a strong root ball and will transplant easily into a prepared location. Remember that they need at least a half day of sunlight in that location. Water well after planting.

» Stop fertilizing. Assuming that you have applied enough fertilizer to support the season's final growth spurt and bloom that occurs in October, fertilizer applied after October 1 will be wasted in senseless and diminishing growth as the rose tries to go dormant.

» Analyze how your roses have performed. Those plants who have given you too much trouble or too few flowers may be candidates for replacement during bare root season. The 2008 rose catalogs are available soon and you can start thinking about which new roses you will want to take the place of the dogs you plan to remove.

» Let rose hips develop. The petals on your unharvested roses will gradually turn ugly and perhaps even show the sickly brown decay caused by the Botrytis fungus. With your hand, grasp all the petals and pull them off in a single move, leaving that part of the bloom to which the petals were attached. This part will develop into a seed pod (rose hip) and signal to the plant that the sex was great, seeds are being developed, and the plant can relax and proceed to dormancy.

Vegetables

Vincent Lazaneo, UC Coop Extension

» Remove warm-season vegetables badly damaged by pests or diseases or past their prime production periods.

» Prepare soil for planting cool-season vegetables by incorporating composted organic matter and a pre-plant fertilizer high in phosphorus. Begin planting cool-season vegetables: broccoli, Brussels sprouts, beets, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, endive, fava beans, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, parsley, peas, potatoes (white), spinach, and turnips.

» Buy seed of short-day onion hybrids, as well as garlic cloves to plant in November for bulb production next summer. Onion sets can be planted for a quick crop of green onions but not for bulbs.

» Dig sweet potatoes before any danger of frost. Be careful not to bruise roots. Dry thoroughly (one to two weeks), wrap in newspaper, and store close to 60° F.

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Fall Color, Southern California Style

Who says our plants' fall colors can't compete?

by Suzie Heap; photos by Jim Dery; cover photo, this page, and page 14 are all the liquidambar tree

As I was sitting in my garden this summer visiting with friends from the East Coast, we soon began to talk plants and trees. "Sure you have sunshine, citrus trees, bougainvillea, palm trees, plumeria, and the like, but you don't have fall color," my friend said.

"Yes, we do." I replied. "We just drive up to the mountains to go leaf-peeping."

Thinking a bit more, I added, "We have fall color right here along the bay and ocean. Let's look around."

The colors of autumn do show up in some of our Southern California street trees. One of the most colorful and popular is the *Liguidambar styraciflua*. This tall, narrow tree originated in the Eastern United States. Commonly, the tree is called American Sweet Gum. It is moderately fast growing to 60' with age, becoming rounded and spreading to 35'. The tree has a marvelous trunk of furrowed gray bark. The palmate leaves have 5–7 pointed lobes and are smooth and glossy above and downy along the veins on the underside.

The fall color of seedling trees varies considerably. Select nursery-grown trees in the fall to obtain the best color.

The Liquidambar has male flowers that are catkins. Tiny female flowers are in greenish ball-like clusters that produce spiny dangling fruit balls an inch wide that shed their winged seeds in the fall and then persist into winter. They hang amongst the bare limbs in a striking silhouette.

Nurseries handle California-bred cultivars of this tree: 'Festival' is pink in fall color, 'Burgundy' is maroon, and 'Palo Alto' is yellow-orange to bright red. 'Rotundiloba' has smoothly rounded rather than pointed leaf lobes, plus little or no seed pods—a consideration if you don't want sidewalk or lawn nuisance.

This bit of fall color does well in Sunset zones 3–9 and 14–24. The Liquidambar prefers full sun and well-drained soils. Chlorosis may result from alkaline and/or chronically wet soil. Its shallow and aggressive roots may cause problems near hardscapes.

Few trees can rival the *Pistacia chinensis* tree. The Chinese Pistache is happy in Sunset zones 4–16 and 18–23. The tree originated in China, Taiwan, and the Philippines and was introduced into the United States in 1897. It is a deciduous rounded tree with slow growth to 40' tall and as wide. Young trees often have an asymmetrical limb structure. The trunk has thin platelets of light gray bark tinged with shades of light orange. The leaves are pinnately compound, 10 inches long, divided into many leaflets, and shiny dark green. Beautiful fall coloring is scarlet, crimson, orange, and sometimes yellow. This is the only tree to color scarlet in the desert.

Flowers on the Pistache are not showy. The grafted male tree is recommended, if you can find one. The Chinese Pistache is tolerant of most soil types, moderate alkalinity, and most water and wind conditions. The tree thrives in a hot climate and is relatively drought-tolerant once established.

The Crape Myrtle, *Lagerstroemia*, often called the "summer lilac," is another tree that came to us from China (in 1759). It has wonderful showy summer flowers. The tree doesn't stop with the impressive summer flowers, however, but goes to fall foliage color and bare limbs in winter. Hybrids with American Indian names tend to resist powdery mildew better than other cultivars when planted in a coastal garden. The American Indian cultivars have been used successfully in areas with coastal influence. There are several growing in Coronado's Orange Avenue median strip gardens.

The tree is a deciduous, vase- or dome-shaped small tree. It is an accent tree growing to about 20' tall and 15' wide. It is shallow-rooted and likes to grow in full sun. Shade can increase powdery mildew. The trunk is very attractive with smooth gray or light brown bark, which flakes off to reveal dramatic, smooth, cinnamon-red inner bark. Spring foliage is light green tinged with bronze-red. Mature leaves are 1–2" long, oval, and deep glossy green. Fall foliage varies with cultivars from yellow to orange and red.

The Crape Myrtle grows in all Sunset zones, but it does best in hot inland and interior valleys. The tree likes full sun and to be watered infrequently but deeply. It is drought-tolerant once established. There is a tendency toward chlorosis or marginal leaf burn in alkaline or saline soil. Because of this, one may need to occasionally leach the soil or give an application of iron. The Crape Myrtle does best in Sunset zones 7–10, 12–14, and 18–21.

Another tree that gives us fall foliage color is the Maidenhair Tree, so called because its leaves resemble maidenhair fern foliage. The *Ginkgo biloba* is generally an upright tree with flat-fan-shaped leathery leaves that turn bright yellow in the fall. This tree is slow-growing and long-lived. It will reach 35–50' tall and 20–30' wide. When it is young, it may have erratic, sometimes asymmetrical growth. The tree is native to two small areas in China. It is a survivor of an ancient group of plants that grew worldwide in prehistoric times. The Maidenhair Tree is cold-hardy and tolerant of heat and smog. It prefers a deep, well-drained soil and requires little pruning. It will grow well in Sunset zones 1–10, 12, and 14–24.

A word of caution when selecting this tree: Specify a male grafted or male cutting stock, as the female tree produces large quantities of messy, foul-smelling fruits. Some cultivars to consider are 'Autumn Gold,' which is upright and evenly broad-shaped; 'Fairmont,' which is slow-growing to 45'; and 'Princeton Sentry,' which has a narrow growth form and a straight trunk and a 20' spread at the base, tapering toward the top.

An article on fall color in Southern California could not come to a close without mentioning a tree that takes center stage in the fall, the Oriental or Japanese Persimmon or *Diospyros kaki*. This small shade tree gives the owner a load of ornamental delicious Halloween-pumpkin orange fruit hanging from its bare branches. The leaves, before they fall, turn vivid yellow, orange, and red (even in mild climates). The Oriental or Japanese Persimmon does best in sun with a little shade during part of the day. The tree likes regular to moderate watering. This persimmon tree comes in both cross-pollinated

and self-fruitful varieties. The cross-pollinated variety often produces tastier, more abundant crops. However, self-fruitful kinds are seedless.

The tree, growing to 30' tall, has a beautiful furrowed gray bark and a dense canopy of 6–7"–long leathery oval leaves. There is an almost gnarly branch pattern. The tree can be espaliered easily. Small yellow flowers appear in the spring, followed by the roundish fruit, which develops in the summer and turns into the orange fall fruit.

Learn more! Check out these books for more information:

The Complete Guide to Southern California Gardening by Maureen Gilmer (Taylor Publishing)

Ornamental Trees of San Diego by Don Walker and Steve Brigham (San Diego Horticultural Society)—available in the San Diego Floral Association library

Street Trees Recommended for Southern California (Street Tree Seminar, Inc)

Sunset California Top 10 Garden Guide (Sunset Books)

Sunset California Western Garden Book (Sunset Books)—available in the San Diego Floral Association library

Tough Plants for California Gardens by Felder Rushing (Cool Springs Press)

There are interesting kinds of Oriental Persimmons. All are great. 'Fuyu' is like a slightly flattened orange baseball and is self-fruitful and non-astringent. 'Chocolate' is acorn-shaped with dark streaks in the flesh when pollinated. These may be eaten directly from the tree, but they have better flavor when allowed to soften slightly off the tree.

Dormant Japanese Oriental Persimmons are available in nurseries as young bare root trees from late fall through winter. Buy and plant them as early as possible during this period to get the widest selection and to give the trees the longest period to put out roots before new growth begins in spring. These trees adapt to a variety of soil types, but they don't thrive in poorly drained soil that remains waterlogged after rains or garden watering. Good shrub companions such as evergreen azaleas or Indian hawthorn (*Rhaphiolepis indica*) look good with this tree. Geraniums (*Cranesbill*) and daylilies (*Hemerocallis*) do well as persimmon companion plants and so does vining star jasmine used as a carpet with the bonus of intensely fragrant flowers.

Now this is fall color, Southern California style.

Suzie Heap is a UCCE Master Gardener. She is also a National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. Landscape Design Consultant.

San Diego Horticultural Society
Meetings 2nd Monday of each month
6 - 9 pm ❖ Free Admission, Everyone Welcome!
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FREE MEETINGS:

September 10: Return to a Native Landscape
Join Smithsonian Institution horticulturist Christine Price-Abelow as she discusses the 10-plus years of planning to create the gardens of the unique landscape oasis at the National Museum of the American Indian.

October 8: Chanticleer - A Pleasure Garden in the Making
Bill Thomas, who has led Chanticleer for five years, leads us on an armchair tour of the garden and offer insights into the behind the scenes of one of the East Coast's most talked about gardens.

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SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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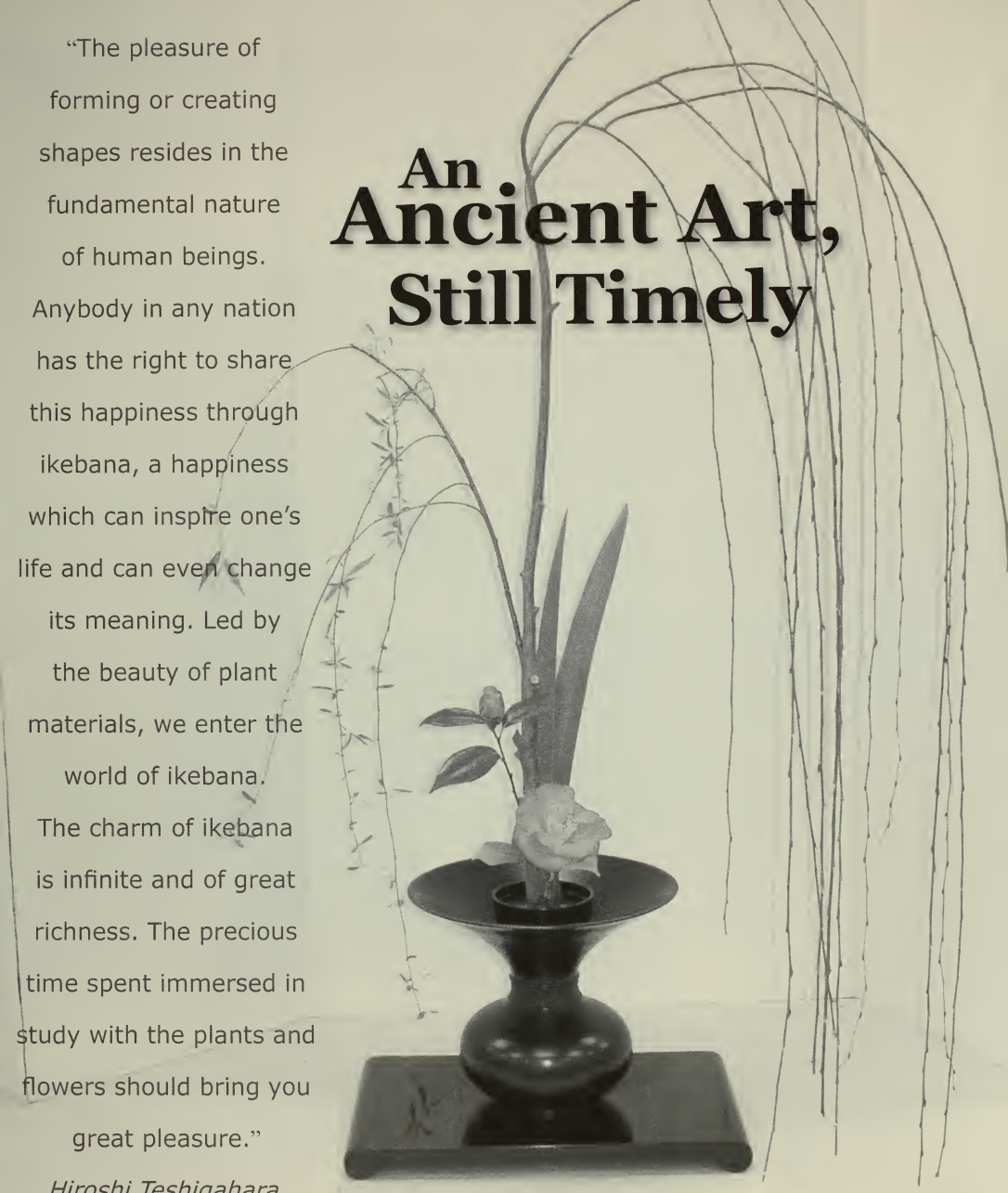
An Ancient Art, Still Timely

"The pleasure of forming or creating shapes resides in the fundamental nature of human beings. Anybody in any nation has the right to share this happiness through ikebana, a happiness which can inspire one's life and can even change its meaning. Led by the beauty of plant materials, we enter the world of ikebana. The charm of ikebana is infinite and of great richness. The precious time spent immersed in study with the plants and flowers should bring you great pleasure."

Hiroshi Teshigahara, Former Iemoto, Sogetsu School



Article and photos by Susan Jackson

The meaning of the word ikebana is "living flowers," but a more accurate interpretation could be "an arrangement of plant material." The origins of ikebana date back to ancient Japan, when Buddhism came from China in the 6th century. One of the early customs was to place arrangements in the temples, as an offering to Buddha. As the Japanese culture became more advanced, the flower arrangements developed into the magnificent creations for which Japan has become known. As the population acquired more wealth, the flower arrangements found their way into homes. Today it is common to find a flower arrangement at the entry of Japanese homes or public buildings.

There are remnants of the original spiritual meaning in the basic arrangements. The art, which was based on three principle branches symbolizing heaven, man, and earth, has evolved into the ikebana popular today. Arrangements are still based on the original triangle formed by the three main branches. The modern art form allows room for much personal expression and has gone far beyond the basic arrangement. Ikebana still has some spiritual meaning in that it is the study of nature and art, blended into harmony with daily living.

To learn the art of ikebana, a teacher is needed to help the student interpret the vast number of rules to learn in the basic arrangements. Only when proficiency in simple arrangements is reached may one add the exciting ingredient of imagination to the formula. Proficiency comes steadily with constant practice, and we are reminded that ikebana is also a way of life. Flower arrangement goes hand in hand with acquisition of self-discipline, patience, and tidiness. One becomes a more composed person and there is the deep satisfaction of work well done. The road to learning is long and requires humility to work through the stages.

Learning ikebana is not difficult. It calls for observance of rules and proportions and, of course, practice. Broadly speaking, there are two fundamental styles. Moribana is done in a shallow bowl called a suiban and calls for the use of a kenzan. A kenzan is a needlepoint holder weighted on the bottom that is used to hold plant material upright. Nageire is a tall vase style where the plant material is supported by the sides of the container. A student begins by mastering a basic upright style in the moribana container and then repeats the arrangement in the tall nageire container.

The beginner creates many variations of the basic arrangement. Each school of ikebana emphasizes different forms and techniques. Some are classic designs, and others are more modern. Students follow a written diagram that shows the length of stems, where each stem is placed in the container, and the angle of placement. By studying these patterns, students discover that a branch can look entirely different, depending on its angle of inclination and the direction it is pointing. Each time, different combinations of materials are used, so the student gains experience in understanding the nature of different plant materials. It is by practicing the basic arrangements that mastery is created. The fundamental styles are attractive in themselves and help develop skill in seeing and selecting beautiful lines. Their continued practice promotes hand and eye coordination and accurate judgment of angles and proportion. The practice of seemingly doing almost the same thing over and over engenders both self-discipline and patience. Every detail is practiced: the selection of the materials, the exact length of branch or stem, the angle of placement, and the placement in the kenzan or top of the container. Methods are learned for "engineering" the arrangement so that it stays in place. Sometimes sticks are placed in the container for support or wedged against the sides for this purpose. Another important aspect of learning Ikebana is to understand how to handle different materials. This includes bending or shaping and trimming various parts of the plant to make them appear most beautiful in the arrangement. In the most general terms, all ikebana is based on the principles of plant growth. This does not mean copying nature exactly, but rather, understanding how plants grow. An example of this is that flowers are always placed facing "up." In nature, flowers grow toward the sun or light. A flower facing down or far to the side in nature would likely mean that the flower was dead or dying. Ikebana strives to show the energy and life in the plants.

Students are led gradually to arrangements requiring more creativity by being given a challenge such as "featuring the surface of leaves" or "emphasizing curved lines." In these lessons, the student must give much thought to the materials selected for the arrangement and how they will be used. The time eventually comes when the student will create a freestyle arrangement. Freestyle should not be attempted until the student's ability has matured with practice and the basic styles are mastered. Only when the instinct of balance has been acquired can one become successful with freestyle, for which there are no rules. Its ingredients are originality, movement, and balance.

It should be stressed that ikebana is an art that cannot be learned from a book alone. Critique and guidance of a tutor is necessary. Today there are many schools of ikebana in Japan. All schools derive from the same foundation of rules and philosophies from the Ikenobo School, which is 500 years old. While the nomenclature of stems and flowers differ, the basic principles are the same. In San Diego, we have representatives from a number of the major ikebana schools. Some of these people teach on a weekly basis. Ikebana International is an organization with chapters all over the world. The San Diego chapter usually meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. Each year, in March, an exhibition of flower arrangements as well as a Japanese Culture Show is held at Casa del Prado and is open to the public.

Susan Jackson is a member of Ikebana International, San Diego Branch, and studies ikebana from the Sogetsu School of Ikebana.

Like Peas in a Pod

The pea is a vegetable that is fun to grow and is at home almost anywhere. It is basically a cool weather plant so it can be grown along our coast and inland up to the winter frost zone.

Pea plants are climbers, so you will have to provide a suitable support for their tendrils to cling to and grow upon. A pleasant place to plant your peas is along a fence line where you can dig suitable planting trenches at the foot of the fence and use the fence as a support for twine, which the tendrils grasp. Have several twine supports for each plant.

Prepare the soil deeply, incorporating lots of humus, and after the peas have sent up shoots that start to cling to the twine support, add some 5–10–15 fertilizer. Space the seeds in the trench about 6" apart. Keep the peas well- but not over-watered. Good deep soaking is better than shallow watering.

The pea crop is ready to pick when the pods are rounded by the ripe peas inside. Chinese peas are grown for the pods, which are ready when the pods reach a few inches in length and the fruit inside is just visible.

Peas also make a good container plant for your balcony garden. Use a long 24–36" container that is 8" deep and 6" across.

CHINESE PEA PODS

1 tablespoon cooking oil
2 cups of Chinese pea pods
1 cup cooked and peeled small shrimp
1 clove mashed garlic
1 cup sliced mushrooms
½ cup sunflower seeds
1 tablespoon soy sauce
1 ½ teaspoons cornstarch
1 cup of chicken stock

Heat the oil in a wok until very hot. Add pea pods, shrimp, garlic, mushrooms, sunflower seeds, and soy sauce. Stir-fry for one to two minutes. Mix cornstarch into the chicken stock and add to the wok. Stir until the liquid becomes thick and smooth. Serve. You might consider putting a serving over cooked rice.

Photo courtesy of All-American Selections Image Library, all-americaselections.org

PEA SOUP

2 cups of ripe, fresh peas
1 large onion diced finely
1 bay leaf
1 small clove
1 hambone or four rashers of cooked bacon, crumbled
1 teaspoon salt
2 cups water
2 medium potatoes, peeled and diced
½ cup sour cream
¼ cup chopped chives
Freshly ground pepper to taste

Put the peas, onion, bay leaf, clove, hambone (or bacon), salt, and the water into a 4-quart pot. Simmer until the peas are very soft, about half an hour. Remove the hambone, but keep any meat that is left on the bone and put it back into the pot. Add the potatoes and continue to simmer until they are soft. Remove the bay leaf and clove. Cool and then blend the mixture until it is smooth. Serve with a dollop of sour cream with chives and pepper. It is great either hot or cold.

Robert Horwitz is a retired space engineer who gardens in the Point Loma section of San Diego.

GARDENING CLASSES

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERIES free classes. Classes begin at 9 a.m. in Point Loma at 3642 Enterprise St., and at 9:30 a.m. in Poway at 12755 Danielson Ct. Questions, call 619-224-8271 (Point Loma) or 858-513-4900 (Poway). Point Loma: Sept. 8: General Orchid Care; Sept. 15: Xeriscape—Low-Water Use Planning; Sept. 22: Fall Bulbs; Sept. 29: Fall Lawn Care; Oct. 6: Ferns, Tall, Low and in Between; Oct. 13: Autumn Herb Care; Oct. 20: Holiday Decorating; Oct. 27: Fall & Winter Veggies. Poway: Sept. 1: Fall Veggies with Richard Wright; Sept. 8: Fall Rose Care; Sept. 15: Native Plantings with Carol Fuller; Sept. 22: Fall Bulbs; Sept. 29: Groundcovers and Erosion Control with Richard Wright; October: To be announced (call store for details).

PEARSON'S GARDENS. Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Pearson's Gardens & Herb Farm, 1150 Beverly Dr., Vista. 760-726-0717 or www.pearsonsgardens.com. September: Sages of Savor & Surprise! October: Firewise Gardening.

RUSTY ACRES HERB FARM. 4233 Rosa Rancho Lane, Rainbow. 760-731-7349 or www.rustyacres.com. September: Winter tomato plants for sale. Heirloom tomato tasting. Free. Fresh produce for sale.

BALBOA PARK

SAN DIEGO ZOO

Plant Days: Third Friday of each month and Orchid Odyssey: Third Friday of each month and first Sunday of March, June, and December, and second Sunday in September.

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Winter Hours (Labor Day through Memorial Day): Open Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Summer hours: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Fee. 619-232-2721.
Sept. 22, 23 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Ken Siers's seminar on Japanese Garden Design: Principles, Techniques and Application. Saturday only ($50) or Saturday/Sunday ($90); includes vegetarian lunch. Details: Miho Ishida—call 619-232-2721, email mihoi@niwa.org, or visit niwa.org.

OFFSHOOT TOURS

Volunteer-guided. Various topics. Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. Meet at Visitors Center. 619-235-1121. Free. Inclement weather or fewer than four cancels.

INTERPRETIVE WALKS

Volunteer-guided. History-oriented topics. Meet at Visitors Center. Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. Free.

ONGOING EVENTS

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Walks. Poway. Saturday and Sunday, 9:00 a.m. 858-679-5469.

CUYAMACA COLLEGE

Water Conservation Garden is home to 4+ acres of beautiful, award-winning, low-water-use landscaping and educational displays. Docent-led tours Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. and Sundays at 1:30 p.m. 619-660-0614. Check website calendar for classes and special events at thegarden.org. Free; donations accepted. Dozens of gardening, composting, art, and family classes throughout the year. California-Friendly Gardening Festival. Saturday, October 27, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Celebrate the beginning of the fall season with an exposition of California-friendly gardening. Festival-goers can buy drought-tolerant plants, hear talks on water-wise gardening and home composting, and get free tree care advice at the Ask the Arborist booth. Visit the Ask the Designers area for your free, 20-minute landscape design consultation with a landscape designer or architect. Kids will love the face painting, the Great Pumpkin Walk, and other fun activities at this family-friendly event.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS

Open daily, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Call for times on docent-led garden tours, weekly or monthly events, and classes for kids and adults. Tours: Every Saturday at 10 a.m. Meet at Visitors Center. No reservations required. Bird Watching: 8:00 a.m. first Monday of the month. Meet in the main parking lot. 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. 760-436-3036 or www.qbgardens.com. General admission.

SAN DIEGO CHINESE HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND GARDEN

Exquisite Asian garden. 404 Third Ave., San Diego. Tuesday–Saturday, 10:30 a.m.–4 p.m., Sunday, 12-4 p.m. Fee. Members and children under age 12 are free.

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Canyoneer Walks. Saturday and Sunday. Free and open to the public; no reservations required. 619-232-3821, ext. 203, or www.sdnhm.org for locations, times, and directions.

THE HUNTINGTON LIBRARY, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens.

Open Tuesday through Friday, noon to 4:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Closed Mondays and most holidays. $15 adults, $12 seniors, $10 students (12-18), $6 youths (5–11), under 5 and members free. Group rate (10+): $11. 626-405-2100 or huntington.org.

WALKABOUT INTERNATIONAL

Local Guided Walks. Newsletter. 619-231-SHOE. Free.

LOCAL GARDENING TELEVISION PROGRAMS

Down to Earth with Tom Piergrossi, daily at 7:30 p.m. on CTN, Time Warner 22, Cox 19, or Adelphia 66.

September 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Gala in the Gardens Southern California Plumeria Society 7th Annual Show and Sale, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
9 Southern California Plumeria Society 7th Annual Show and Sale, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.	10 San Diego Horticultural Society Monthly Meeting, 6:00 p.m.	11 Dos Valles Garden Club Annual Meeting and Potluck Luncheon, 12 noon	12 Poway Valley Garden Club meeting, 9 a.m. Ramona Garden Club meeting, 12 noon	13 Succulent Wreath Class, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.	14	15 Bamboo Sale, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
16	17	18 Workshop on Repairing or Finishing Baskets, 9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. California Native Plant Fair, 7:30 p.m.	19	20 San Diego Fern Society Meeting, 7:30 p.m.	21	22
23/30 Floral Design Class with David Root, 2–4 p.m. (23rd) Southern California Plumeria Society meeting, 1–3 p.m. (23rd) Gardening Under Mediterranean Skies Symposium (30th)	24	25 Workshop on Making a Pine Needle Basket, 9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.	26	27	28	29 Gardening Under Mediterranean Skies Symposium

October 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 Workshop on Making an Appalachian Basket, 9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.	3	4	5 San Diego International Orchid Fair at Quail Botanical Gardens, 1 p.m.–5 p.m.	6 San Diego International Orchid Fair at Quail Botanical Gardens, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Art Glass Guild Show and Sales, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
7 San Diego International Orchid Fair at Quail Botanical Gardens, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Art Glass Guild Show and Sales, 10 a.m.–5 p.m..	8 San Diego Horticultural Society October Meeting, 7 p.m.	9 Gourd Class, 9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.	10 Poway Valley Garden Club meeting, 9 a.m.	11	12	13
14	15	16 San Diego Floral Association Quarterly Meeting and Dinner, 7 p.m. California Native Plant Society San Diego chapter monthly meeting, 7 p.m.	17	18 San Diego Fern Society meeting, 7:30 p.m.	19	20 Quail Botanical Gardens Annual Fall Plant Sale, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.
21 Quail Botanical Gardens Annual Fall Plant Sale, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.	22	23 Gourd Class, 9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September/October Calendar of Events

September 8 | Saturday

Gala in the Gardens. Quail Botanical Garden's largest fundraiser. www.qbgardens.org.

September 8–9 | Saturday–Sunday

Southern California Plumeria Society 7th Annual Show and Sale, Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Enjoy the lei flower of Hawaii in its entire splendor, including a table of identified flowers of every color of the rainbow. Hundreds of plants of every size and color, grown by club members, for sale at great club prices. Members will be available to answer any culture questions. Sale table will include plumeria culture items and books. Free. 760-451-1472, www.southerncaliforniaplumeriasociety.com.

September 10 | Monday

San Diego Horticultural Society Monthly Meeting. Smithsonian Institution Horticulturist Christine Price-Abelow will discuss the garden at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., at 6:00 p.m. in the Surfside Race Place at the Del Mar Fairgrounds.

September 11 | Tuesday

Dos Valles Garden Club Annual Meeting and Potluck Luncheon, noon, at the St. Stephen Catholic Church Hall, 31020 Cole Grade Rd., Valley Center. For information, visit www.dosvallesgardenclub.org or call 760-749-2958.

September 12 | Wednesday

Poway Valley Garden Club meeting at 9 a.m. in the Pavilion at Lake Poway. Greg Rubin will discuss landscape design. For information, contact Rosemary Anderson, mom@san.rr.com, 858-672-0459 or home.san.rr.com/pvgc.

Ramona Garden Club. 12 noon. CHIRP founder Maureen Austin will be sharing ways to attract and sustain garden wildlife. Contact Ramona at 760-604-1852 or visit the website at Ramonagardenclub.com for further information.

September 13 | Thursday

Succulent Wreath Class. 9 a.m.–2 p.m. Hands-on instruction by Portia Harloff and Jane Soher. Please bring a pair of clippers, some water, and a snack and dress comfortably. Cost: $55 for members, $65 for nonmembers (includes materials). Advance registration is required. Class size is limited. Call 760-436–3036, ext. 206 to register. www.qbgardens.org.

September 15 | Saturday

Bamboo Sale 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Presented by the Southern California Chapter of the American Bamboo Society and Quail Botanical Gardens. www.qbgardens.org.

September 18 | Tuesday

★Workshop on Repairing or Finishing Baskets. Teachers: Kathy and Marie Walsh. Come in and repair or finish a basket you never finished! Added fee if materials are needed. Cost: $5.00. 9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. in Room 104, Casa del Prado. Coffee and sweets provided; bring your own sandwich and your own pail and clippers. Call Marie Walsh for information at 619-298-5182. To register, contact the Association at 619-232-5762.

California Native Plant Fair at 7:30 p.m., Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. The largest growers of California Native Plants, including representatives from Las Pilitas Native Plant Nursery and Native Plant Connection, will answer questions. Greg Rubin will talk about landscaping with California native plants. Native plants, books, posters, and wildflower seeds for sale. Open to the public. For more information, visit cnpssd.org, email info@cnpssd.org, or call 916-447-2677.

September 20 | Thursday

San Diego Fern Society Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Free. Guests welcome.

September 23 | Sunday

Floral Design Class with David Root. 2–4 p.m. Enjoy a hands-on floral workshop with floral designer David Root. Learn the intimate details of the floral design process using unusual plant materials and containers. Please bring a floral knife, clippers, wire cutters, and scissors. All other materials will be provided. The class is limited to 20 students on a first-come basis. A portion of the profits from this workshop will benefit Quail Botanical Gardens. Cost: $55 for members, $60 for nonmembers (includes all floral materials). Advance registration is required. Class size limited. Call 760-436–3036, ext. 206 to register. www.qbgardens.org.

Southern California Plumeria Society. 1–3 p.m. War Memorial Building, Balboa Park. Always a guest speaker and always a Q&A session, great opportunity table, club apparel, culture books, and refreshments. Free. For information, call 619-443-4795 or 760-451-1472 or visit socalplumeriasociety.com.

September 25 | Tuesday

★Workshop on Making a Pine Needle Basket. Teachers: Kathy and Marie Walsh. Make a pine needle basket. All materials furnished. Cost: $25 for members; $30 for nonmembers. 9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. in Room 104, Casa del Prado. Coffee and sweets provided; bring your own sandwich, a towel, a pail, and clippers. Call Marie Walsh for information at 619-298-5182. To register, contact the Association at 619-232-5762.

September 29–30 | Saturday and Sunday

Gardening Under Mediterranean Skies Symposium. Quail Botanical Gardens, Encinitas. Titled "Lessons in Our Gardens–San Diego," the event is sponsored by *Pacific Horticulture* magazine in association with Quail Gardens, *Garden Design* magazine, the San Diego Horticultural Society, the Mediterranean Garden Society, and the Water Conservation Garden, with San Diego Floral Association as a supporting sponsor. The symposium features speakers Owen E. Dell, a Santa Barbara landscape architect, and Shirley Kerins, a Pasadena-based landscape architect and former curator of the Huntington Botanical Garden herb garden. Garden tours, plant sales, and book signings are also included. Registration is $155 with discounts available. For information and to register, visit sdhortsoc.org or call 760-295-7089.

October 2 | Tuesday

★Workshop on Making an Appalachian Basket. Teachers: Kathy and Marie Walsh. Make an Appalachian-style basket with materials gleaned from gardens and parks. Cost: $35.00. 9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. in Room 104, Casa del Prado. Coffee and sweets provided; bring your own sandwich. Bring a pail and your own clippers. Call Marie Walsh for information at 619-298-5182. To register, contact the Association at 619-232-5762.

October 5–7 | Friday–Sunday

San Diego International Orchid Fair at Quail Botanical Gardens. Friday, 1 p.m.–5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Orchids from vendors of various countries such as China, Peru, Columbia, The Philippines, Australia, Venezuela, Taiwan, Costa Rica, Brazil, and Ecuador will be on display and for sale. General admission fees are $10 for adults; $7 for seniors, active military, and students; and $5 for children ages 3–12. Children ages 2 and under are free. Members admitted free. www.qbgardens.org

October 6–7 | Saturday–Sunday

Art Glass Guild Show and Sales. Spanish Village Art Center, Balboa Park, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Information: 619-702-8006 or agasc.org.

October 8 | Monday

San Diego Horticultural Society October Meeting. Bill Thomas, executive director of Chanticleer, a 35-acre public garden in Philadelphia, will speak. 7 p.m. Free. Surfside Race Place at the Del Mar Fairgrounds in Del Mar. For information or to buy tickets, call 760-730-3268 or visit sdhortsoc.org.

October 9 | Tuesday

★Gourd Class. Teacher M.J. Wydro. M.J. will bring everything: gourds of all sizes, paint, dye, and equipment. Come and enjoy a new hobby with a great teacher. Materials fee to teacher: $10. Cost of class: $25. Coffee and sweets provided; bring your own sandwich. Call Marie Walsh for information at 619-298-5182. To register, contact the Association at 619-232-5762.

(Continued on p. 32)

So, your brand-new digital camera has arrived. You've unpacked it, charged the battery, and struggled with the manual. Now you're ready to take some award-winning shots of those magnificent blooms in your garden.

It's instructive to look at some of the flower photos in your magazines and books, in catalogues and on the Web. It's obvious that some of the rarities captured in the field were shot by people who were better botanists than photographers. Others were clearly the work of professionals. By following a few simple rules, you can do better than even the experts because you have several major advantages. You can use the maximum resolution of your camera and can fill the whole screen of your computer's monitor. You don't have to worry about the difficulty and expense of reproducing color on the printed page or the problem of transmitting large files over the Internet. The most expensive of coffee-table books might have a couple of dozen full-page photos, but you can produce hundreds or even thousands of masterpieces for almost nothing now that you have made the initial investment in your camera.

First, let's talk about resolution, something you didn't have to think about in the film camera era. Your camera will have a menu offering you choices with names like "Hi," "Fine," "Normal," and "Basic." I urge you always to use the highest image quality. It's true that your shots will occupy more storage on your memory card and on your hard drive, but there is nothing sadder than to capture a masterpiece and then to discover that it shows "jaggies" after you crop it and try to blow it up. You can always compress the file later if you don't need its full detail or if you want to mail it to a friend or post it on the Web. If you have a higher-end camera, it will allow you to shoot "Raw" images. If this is available, use it. It preserves all of the information initially recorded by your camera and should be the format you use to archive your photos. We'll have more to say about Raw images in the next installment, when we discuss photo editing.

Photographic film and light-sensitive semiconductors are much less able than the human eye to record detail from a subject with marked contrasts between its highlights and its shadows. Therefore, any photography, but especially garden photography where you want to match the colors of the original accurately, is best done during overcast conditions. In general, if you can see your shadow, you should put away your camera. It is possible to improve your results with contrasty subjects by using "fill flash," but the best flower pictures use outdoor available light. I can get good photos on a sunny day if I take the subject into my whitewashed greenhouse, but even then it is best to work when it is overcast. Our San Diego "June gloom" gets tiring after a few weeks, but it provides ideal conditions for the photographer during the season when the garden is at its prime.

The closer you are to a subject, the more difficult it is to get all parts of it in focus. Therefore you want the greatest possible "depth of field," which means selecting "aperture priority" and setting the camera to its smallest aperture (largest F-stop). In the low light conditions that

Digital Photography in the Garden

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ARTHUR DAWSON

PART III: CLOSE-UP FLOWER PHOTOGRAPHY

Arthur's Cardinal Rules for Close-Up Flower Photography:

First, and by far most important, use a tripod.
Use aperture priority and the smallest available aperture (largest F-stop).
Use a neutral background to avoid distracting objects behind the subject.

Do...

Don't...

Avoid "birds-eye" and straight on views. Choose an angle that brings out the relationship between the parts of a flower.

Remember "The Rule of Thirds." You want the eyes looking toward the center of the frame, down one-third and in one-third from a top corner.

If you're taking a photo of a beautiful flower, avoid distracting backgrounds. The best way to do this is to hold a piece of cardboard behind the subject.

From Top: Moraea loubseri (2); Brassolaelia Morning Glory 'H & R' (2), and Lilac Stitchery (2).

I recommended above, you will probably be using shutter speeds of 1/30 second or longer.

Perfect focus is essential for a good flower photograph. If you are really close to the flower, it will be impossible to achieve this unless you have a very flat subject. Therefore you will need to select the most important part of the bloom to be the focal point. For example, this will probably be the lip of an orchid. If your camera gives you the option, select a single autofocus point on the area of most interest. If you can't do that, you may want to use manual focus, but I find that autofocus generally gives better results.

When you are using long exposure times or telephoto lenses, your picture will be blurred if there is the slightest motion. To keep the camera still, you must use a tripod. Use the self-timer to delay the shutter opening until you get your hands off of the camera. Some ingenuity is required to prevent movement of small flowers and feathery foliage if there is any breeze. Sometimes patience combined with taking several shots will catch one unblurred exposure. Most of the time, I cheat and take a cutting of the plant into the greenhouse, where I can close the door. It can be maneuvered into perfect position with a small vise of the type used for tying flies or soldering small electrical parts. On newer cameras, "image stabilization" may help to reduce problems with camera movement and slow shutter speeds. Remember, however, that it achieves better sharpness with some sacrifice of image quality and that it compensates for movement of the camera, not of the subject.

When you are photographing wild flowers in their natural setting in the woodland or desert, you will want to include some background, though it will probably be out of focus. If you are taking a photo of a beautiful flower like a rose or an orchid, then you will want to avoid any distracting background detail. The best way to do this is to hold a piece of cardboard behind the subject. I use a 20 x 30' piece of heavy matte poster board I bought at an artists' supply shop. I have several colors, but black is the most satisfactory.

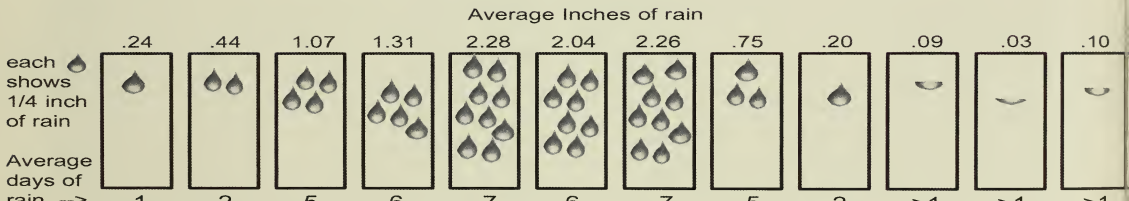
You should avoid "birds-eye" and straight-on views. The photo will be much more interesting if you choose an angle that brings out some contrast between the parts of a flower. Remember The Rule of Thirds. In a portrait you want the eyes looking toward the center of the frame, down one-third and in one-third from a top corner. If your flower has a definite "face," like an orchid, then you want it "looking" across the frame area, not out of it. I've posted some examples on my website at http://homepage.mac.com/adawson2/digitalphoto.html.

If you have better than a basic point-and-shoot camera and are using the best image quality, then you don't need to make the subject completely fill the viewfinder. It's better to include a bit more than you need of the surroundings and to crop the image later. What you lose in detail will be more than repaid by the ability to compose the shot with your editing software using the full size of your monitor rather than trying to get it right while looking at the tiny viewfinder of your camera.

Next month I'll talk about photo editing. This is where digital photography really shines and after you have turned a few mediocre shots into prizewinners, you'll throw away that film camera for good.

Arthur Dawson was born in Montreal and came to La Jolla in 1964 to work for Scripps Clinic. He doesn't like change: He's been in the same job for 43 years, married to the same wife for 46 years, in the same house for 40 years, and driving the same car for 20 years—which only goes to show how significant the switch to digital photography was for him.

San Diego's Eternal Spring


Average Inches of rain
each shows 1/4 inch of rain
Average days of rain -->
.24 .44 1.07 1.31 2.28 2.04 2.26 .75 .20 .09 .03 .10
1 2 5 6 7 6 7 5 2 >1 >1 >1
Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec. Jan. Feb. Mar. April May June July Aug.

Rainfall data for San Diego at Lindbergh Field
source NOAA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

BY JOHN NOBLE

There is a seasonal air of change. In our deserts and mountains, it has true autumnal significance. The cooler days and nights are extremely welcome in the deserts. And in the mountains, the town of Julian celebrates its apple season. The cooling days and nights hint of winter on the horizon with its freezing temperatures.

Along the coast, life is different. Though the seasonal weather of September and October resembles autumn, it never kicks into winter gear; it dances through an eternal spring.

Now is an ideal time for gardening. It is considered the beginning of our gardening year. It is when nature does its magic. Most of our garden perennials, including Mediterranean, South African, Australian, and California natives, thrive if planted during our rainy season.

There are many bulbs, cool season vegetables, and wildflower seeds that can grow well this time of the year.

Starting now, there is hope of rain! The early evenings and early mornings feel cooler. The sun is rising later and setting earlier. Finally, there is one evening when dense clouds darken the sky and the sunset is obscured. What was a comfortable breeze becomes a chilling wind, and we're inspired to put on a long-sleeved shirt or a light jacket for some warmth. If we are lucky, we may even feel

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droplets of rain come from the sky. If not with the first round of clouds, then perhaps with the second.

Sometimes the rain comes during early morning, sometimes during the night. I believe a dark, chilly, moist early evening best sets the mood as the rainy season begins.

Some years, the first rains may not be accompanied by chilly winds, but rather by warm sultry breezes. These storms usually visit us in early September and are the remnants of a tropical hurricane.

San Diego is no ordinary place. Our year-round gardening is a special treat.

Gardening is much easier and more fun if we learn to recognize nature's rhythms and dance with her. The first rain or two can be teasers, followed by another month or two of dry weather.

Some years, the rainy season never seems to arrive. The past two years have been extremely dry. Other years, it can start in September and rain regularly through April.

Unless we are getting a lot of rain in September and October, it is best to wait until November or early December to do a major planting.

Warning: If you are planting tropical plants, it is best to wait till April. They can be sensitive to our cool winter.

There is another aspect of our climate that creates our eternal spring. And although we enjoy it tremendously, it can be hard on new plantings. We call it the Santa Ana winds.

During the fall and early winter, our average temperatures continue to drop, but the return of the Santa Ana winds blows the notion of winter away.

This is what makes San Diego's climate unique. The Santa Ana season starts in September and goes through April. Throughout the fall and winter, the Santa Ana winds can give us our hottest days of the year, often reaching 90 degrees. We experience Santa Ana conditions about 20 times a year.

San Diego is no ordinary place. Our year-round gardening is a special treat.

The dance is about watching the sky. Before the rainy season gets into full swing, you should have a game plan in mind. Analyze your existing landscape. Are you happy with your garden?

Change is inevitable in a garden. Every day, there is birth, growth, and death. In our gardens, we are the designers and the caregivers. Try to create the garden of your dreams. This is a great time of the year to give your garden a rebirth.

The change can be small or major. Sometimes a single plant will change a whole garden. Sometimes a single plant is lucky to survive a planner's drawing.

Visualize your garden 20 years from now. One technique of gradual transformation is to take the part of your garden that is disturbing you the most and make it the most beautiful part of your garden. Then go on to the next.

Create a plan. It can be just in your head, or a project list, or actual drawings.

September and October are perfect months for starting small projects. The invigorating cooler days are great for doing heavy-duty garden exercise. Also our social schedules are usually light compared to the holiday months of November and December.

Clean out all the dead growth. Pull out all the weeds. Amend and fertilize the soil. (Note: Prep work for large-scale projects should ideally be started in the summer months.)

Start obtaining plants. Walk around your neighborhood studying plants and visit several nurseries. The local chapter of the California Native Plant Society has a plant sale in Balboa Park in early October.

It is caused by air pressure from the Great Basin that gets trapped between the Sierra Nevada and Rocky Mountains. The air, foehn wind, is actually heated by compression as it spills eastwardly down the mountain toward the Pacific.

These dry, hot winds are very tough on plant life, desiccating leaves and drying out the soil. We can always rely on a hose and irrigation to help us, but knowing our local climate is important. Do your planting according to the weather.

September doesn't guarantee rain. Although there is an average of one rain day, there is about a 50-50 chance that it will rain, and if it does, it will usually be light rain. The average September rainfall is less than a one-quarter of an inch. October averages almost a half-inch of rain, with an average of two days of rain.

Some say the rainy season starts in November, which averages 1-¼ inch of rain and five days of rain. Nine of the past ten years have recorded below-average rainfall. Hopefully, this year we will have a higher than average year.

Just for the record, since 1872, 11 freezing-temperature records have been set in San Diego, two times in December, and nine times in January. The fluctuation from hot, dry days and cool, wet weather is nature's dance. It gives us our eternal spring. Learn the dance. Watch the weather. If a Santa Ana is predicted, do some weeding, as the weeds won't survive. If a good storm is coming, go out, sow your seeds, and settle in your plants. They will thrive.

John Noble is the owner of Coastal Sage Gardening and Botany for Kids, as well as cofounder of In Harmony Herbs and Spices.

California Native Plant Sale

Saturday October 13, 2007

In a garden, native plants do best with some attention and care, but require less water, fertilizer, pruning, less or no pesticide, and less of your time to maintain than do many common garden plants. As you see in these pictures they bring beauty to your garden. They also attract butterflies and birds that help keep mosquitoes and harmful bugs under control. Native splendor reduces time and effort.

Open to CNPS members 10AM _ 3PM	Open to Public 11AM _ 3PM
CNPS memberships available at the sale	CASH or CHECKS only
Balboa Park, Casa del Prado Courtyard San Diego, CA by Casa del Prado theater	Books, posters, and wildflower seeds for sale FREE expert CA Native advice
Come early for best selections	Show up late for best deals

You may pre-order your plants. See details at www.cnpssd.org.

For info and directions email plantsale@cnpssd.org

All proceeds benefit the San Diego Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS), a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of native California flora.

Out of Africa

African native bulbs thrive in warm weather and feel right at home in San Diego.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SABRINA ABERCROMBY. TOP AND BOTTOM LEFT: GLADIOLUS; MIDDLE: FREESIA

Fall is a wonderful time of year for the gardener. This is the beginning of bulb season, a time when the nursery shelves are filled with bulbs, corms, rhizomes, and tubers, all neatly packed in boxes with a picture of the colorful flowers that will be produced from these earthy gems. Peach, orange, and yellow daffodils. Tulips in bold colors and stripes. Lilies, crocuses, and irises. With so many options, you may feel like a kid in a candy store wanting to try one of everything. If you are looking for a bulb that is sure to perform well and thrive in our climate, consider going African this year.

There are many bulbs that are native to Africa. These plants are accustomed to warm weather and lots of sunshine. "You are dealing with bulbs that are native to an environment or a climate that is very similar to our own," says Kathleen McCarthy, head of customer service at Easy to Grow Bulbs, an online bulb company located just north of San Diego. "Here in Southern California, where water conservation is so crucial, it's a real benefit to plant warm weather bulbs because they tend to be much more water-wise." Plus, many of these bulbs can naturalize and spread by themselves in the garden. Or they can even be used as potted plants.

Here are some flowering African natives worth trying. You'll recognize some of them, like freesia and gladiolus, while others may be new and exciting.

Amaryllis Belladonna

It is sometimes called "naked lady" because it blooms without any leaves present. It produces a big stem that grows up to two feet tall and blooms with as many as 12 large trumpet-shaped flowers. The leaves are long and straplike. The flowers are fragrant and long-lasting. It comes in light to dark pink and is resistant to deer and rodents.

Baboon Flower

Babiana is commonly known as "baboon flower," not because it resembles a baboon in any way, but because it is one of their favorite foods to eat. This corm grows long, hairy leaves in a fan shape. When it blooms, each stem grows up to a foot tall with several flowers in white, lavender, blue, or purple.

Chasmanthe

This is a relative of watsonia. It has wide leaves that grow two feet tall in a fan shape. Orange-red tubular flowers grow in late winter to early spring on 3'-tall spikes. Chasmanthe tends to be pest-free and requires little care. It doesn't need to be watered while it is dormant. Divide the corms every few years as they multiply rather quickly.

Corn Lily

Ixia is commonly known as the "corn lily." This fast-growing corm produces grasslike clumps about 2' tall. It blooms with spikes that have small flowers, with centers in bolder, contrasting colors. The flowers will open each day according to the amount of sunlight. On dim, cloudy days, the petals will stay rounded toward the center. On bright, sunny days, the petals will open until they are flat. It is available in white, yellow, orange, pink, or red.

Freesia

This popular corm has grasslike leaves and blooms with an arched stem that has flowers growing only on the upper side. It makes long-lasting cut flowers, as long as you like the fragrance. It is pleasing to some and quite offensive to others. Keep your bouquets small since a few stems can scent an entire room. Flowers come in white, yellow, pink, red, and blue.

Gladiolus

Some varieties are native to Europe, but many are native to Africa. This staple of the bulb garden produces flower stems up to 4' tall covered with long-lasting flowers. It comes in a wide variety of colors, both solids and combinations.

In Southern California, we have the burden of digging up tulips and refrigerating them if we want to see them at peak performance every year. However, what we take for granted is that we can leave our gladiolus corms in the ground year-round. In the colder regions of the United States, where gardeners leave their tulips in the ground, they must dig up their gladiolus corms to protect them from the cold. I guess that's fair.

Pineapple Lily

Shhh, don't tell this plant it's not a pineapple. It sure looks like one, though. In the summer, *Eucomis* blooms a floral version of a pineapple that sits atop the long, wide leaves of the plant. Individual flowers grow about the size and shape of pineapple eyes and cluster all around a stem. The illusion is completed with a tuft of grassy bracts above the flower cluster. Flowers stems can grow up to 3' tall. It comes with greenish flowers that have pink or purple edges.

Harlequin Flower

This corm, *Sparaxis*, is also called wand flower. It blooms in the spring with 1 ½'-tall spikes of flowers in white, yellow, red, blue, purple, or various pastels. Be sure to keep them dry after their foliage turns yellow. They don't like to get wet while dormant.

Bugle lily

Watsonia resembles its cousin, the gladiolus, with tall grassy leaves. In the summer, it grows long spikes up to 6' tall with a profusion of 2–3' flowers that look like bugles—hence the name bugle lily. It comes with white, red, pink, salmon, orange, or lavender flowers. It should be kept dry while it is dormant.

Divide and Conquer

Most of these plants are corms, which technically aren't true bulbs. Bulbs are made up of layers, like an onion, while corms consist of homogeneous stem tissue. You will need to dig these plants up every few years to divide them. Small corms will develop next to the main corm and can be separated to form new plants. When you find that they aren't performing as well as usual, that's a sign that it's time to divide them.

Some of these bulbs will be available at your local nursery. If you struggle to find them, just check out your favorite mail-order company or search online for bulb companies. Start your planting now and, before you know it, your garden will be filled with spring and summer flowers.

Sabrina Abercromby is a local freelance writer and gardening enthusiast.

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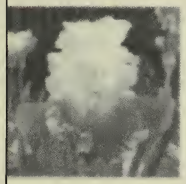

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October Calendar of Events

(Continued from p. 22)

October 10 | Wednesday

Poway Valley Garden Club meeting 9 a.m. in Templars Hall, Old Poway Park. Connie Beck will discuss plant propagation. For information, contact Rosemary Anderson by email at mom@san.rr.com or by phone at 858-672-0459, or visit home.san.rr.com/pvgc.

October 16 | Tuesday

San Diego Floral Association Quarterly Meeting and Dinner. Nancy Carol Carter, legal research center director and professor of law at the University of San Diego, will present an illustrated talk about Kate O. Sessions. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. 6 p.m. Optional catered dinner: $12 for members; $15 for nonmembers. 7 p.m. Reservations should be made through the Association office, 619-232-5762, prior to Monday, October 15. For information, visit sdfloral.org.

California Native Plant Society San Diego chapter monthly meeting. 7 p.m. Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Native plants, books, posters, and wildflower seeds for sale. Open to the public. For more information, visit cnpssd.org, email info@cnpssd.org, or call 916-447-2677.

October 18 | Thursday

San Diego Fern Society. 7:30 p.m., Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Free. Guests welcome.

October 20–21 | Saturday–Sunday

Quail Botanical Gardens Annual Fall Plant Sale. 11 a.m.–4 p.m. public sale (Saturday and Sunday). 9 a.m.–11 a.m., Saturday (members only). Plants are donated by San Diego County growers, wholesalers, retail nurseries, and private individuals. Also for sale are books, tools, crafts, gourmet jams and jellies, baked goods, and lunch. General admission fees are $10 for adults; $7 for seniors, active military, and students; and $5 for children ages 3–12. Children ages 2 and under are free. Membership admission cost is free. www.qbgardens.org

October 23 | Tuesday

Gourd Class. Teacher M.J. Wydro. M.J. will bring everything: gourds of all sizes and shapes, paint, dye, and equipment. Materials fee to teacher: $10. Cost of class: $25. Coffee and sweets provided; bring your own sandwich. Call Marie Walsh for information at 619-298-5182. To register, contact the Association at 619-232-5762.

Deadline for submissions to horticultural calendar for November/December 2007 issue is September 20. Email event info to calendar@sdfloral.org. San Diego Floral Association is not responsible for last-minute changes or any information submitted late by the organizations.

Long Lasting Designs

By Adrienne Green, photos by Betty Mackintosh

This article was originally published in the September/October 1975 issue of *California Garden* magazine and is reprinted here with minor changes for clarity.

How can arrangements be made to last longer? To increase the life of a living design, select plant materials that possess a durable nature, cut them in the late afternoon or early morning, place the stems in deep water treated with Hormex* or similar floral preservative, and replace any evaporated water daily in the finished arrangement.

Usually foliage remains fresh longer than flowers. In the designs described here, the one with the water bird (shown in the illustration) uses only foliage—*Phormium* (New Zealand flax), *Nephrolepis* (Sword Fern), and *Aucuba japonica* (Gold Dust Plant).

Behind the figurine a heavy needle cup holder (6" x 3" x 2" deep) secures the stems in place. The design rests on an irregularly shaped base of wood slightly darker than the cypress bird. The strong vertical thrust of the figure is accented by the stiff flax. The softer sword fern suggests "featherlike folded wings" as it embraces the body curves. The fern adds contrast in texture and form to the other design components. The spotted *Aucuba* echoes the pointed bill and tail, again offering a pleasing contrast in texture and form to the other design components.

A designer combines plant material with a figurine to enhance the work of art. A subtle natural wood bird like this one is a happy companion to these few pieces of foliage.

If properly conditioned, green calla lilies and their leaves will remain fresh for as long as two weeks. The arrangement assembled for this article broke all records by lasting almost three.

Before arranging calla lilies, the stems of the flowers and foliage are placed in a bucket of water treated with Hormex for several hours. The flax needs no special handling.

The pottery container, which contains a large needle holder, is also filled with the Hormex solution.

A dried wisteria branch harmonizes in texture and color with a swirling circular pattern on the pottery's rough surface. Two curves of the branch enclose spaces not unlike the silhouette of the flower heads.

Three stalks of flax grouped together establish the "main line" of the design. Calla lilies in graduated stages of development move down the flax at slightly different angles, gradually becoming larger. The heaviest concentration of leaves and the showiest bloom are in the lowest area of the arrangement.

Green calla lilies with their own foliage along with bronze *Phormium* are excellent choices for a long-lasting living sculpture.

*A widely available commercial vitamin, hormone concentrate, and root growth stimulant, Hormex Liquid Concentrate prevents transplant shock by stimulating growth of the small feeder roots, which become damaged during transplanting. When used at a concentration of ½ teaspoon per quart, it makes cut flowers last longer.

Adrienne Green, nationally acclaimed flower arranger, lecturer, and writer, moved to Pacific Beach in 1959. Shortly thereafter, she joined the San Diego Floral Association. In 1974, she and three others founded the Village Garden Club of La Jolla; she also helped found Coronado's Crown Garden Club and its Bridge and Bay Garden Club. She also belonged to the La Jolla Garden Club and advised the Mission Hills Garden Club. Her work with the San Diego Museum of Art, beginning in 1982, led to the development of the museum's successful annual program Art Alive. Among other awards, Adrienne has been recognized by the California Garden Club, Inc. through its 2006 Lifetime Achievement Award and by Quail Botanical Gardens as its 2004 Paul Ecke, Jr. award-winner.

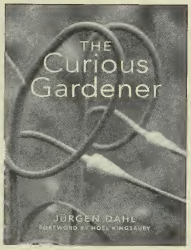
Reviews

All the books reviewed in *California Garden* are in the San Diego Floral Association library. Come and browse!

The Curious Gardener

by Jürgen Dahl (translated by Claudia Heidieker)
Timber Press
$24.95; 251 pages; hardcover

Do you go out in the garden in the morning before you get dressed, curious about what has happened there overnight? If so, here is a kindred spirit whose curiosity outweighs concerns about what might be working or not and who has a great sense of fun about it all. This book, a collection of weekly newspaper columns from German gardening writer Jürgen Dahl, will keep you smiling with its charm and wisdom.

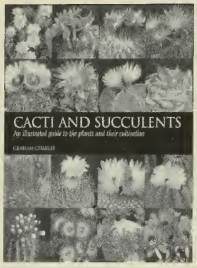


Dahl describes the foibles and fancies of his own garden experience, emphasizing the rewards of experience over effect. For him, the ways of nature, the beauty of individual plants, and the practical aspects of plant life outweigh garden aesthetics. He writes in an informal, humorous tone, full of exclamations, rhetorical questions, and many droll observations.

One section, "The Stinking Garden," is a purely provocative group of essays on plants that some people find have disagreeable scents. Although the species name of *foetida* refers to unpleasant ("fetid") odors, Dahl finds this questionable in some cases and suggests that the oversensitive noses of some botanists could be to blame. For him, a wide range of fragrances simply adds to a garden's appeal. The uses of plants, particularly for food, occupy many pages throughout the book with many culinary recipes for herbs, grasses, flowers, and the fruits of ornamental shrubs. He also describes papermaking and the appeal of dried plants, with excursions into garden tools and ornaments; his reflections on garden gnomes are especially delicious! The fact that Dahl lives in a land of four seasons poses no downside to the enjoyment of this entertaining and informative book. It's a garden lover's treasure!—Marge Howard-Jones

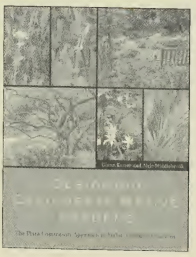
Cacti and Succulents

by Graham Charles
Crowood Press/ Trafalgar Square
$35; 192 pages; paperback



You may know that all cacti are succulents with spines, but did you know that all cacti of a specific species flower at the same time? This is just one little informational nugget in a handsome volume whose 420 gorgeous color photos of 250 different species or genera could easily inspire a serious addiction to collecting them. The illustrations accompany a text describing the unique nature of these exotic plants, their natural environments, and their history, classification, and nomenclature.

The author is a British cactus and succulent judge whose enthusiasm for his subject began as a young boy. He claims that because these plants require so little attention and grow so slowly they naturally attract both children and adults with active lifestyles.



The succulent collection at the Huntington Botanical Gardens is featured in the book's frontispiece and the variegated foliage of *Crassula argentea 'Hummel's Sunset,'* hybridized in Carlsbad, is pictured within the text. The extensive section on specific genera and species is organized alphabetically, with photos on the same pages as the plant descriptions. At the back of the book a series of appendices provides lists of relevant organizations, shopping resources, and further reference books and magazines.—MH-J

Designing California Native Gardens

Glenn Keator and Alrie Middlebrook
Phyllis M. Faber/University of California Press
$27.50; 352 pages; paperback

Here is a manual for both the devoted and novice California native plant gardener. It contains 12 chapters, each of which represents a well-defined habitat ranging from the Channel Islands to the dry desert and all others in between.

Each chapter has a garden design with associated native plant list with descriptions, care, and photos of the plant selections. There is also an appropriate alternative plant list. The photos and plant descriptions alone would make this a valuable native plant field manual, were it not for its size (necessary to contain all the landscape data).

A list of gardens, parks, and natural habitats provides guidance to every type of garden design that one could wish to emulate. Finally, there is an index of statewide native plant sources. If you want to go native, this is the perfect book to get you there!—MH-J

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

Garden Center and Library – Founded in 1907
1650 El Prado #105, San Diego, CA 92101-1622
619-232-5762 Located in Casa del Prado, Room 105, Balboa Park
Under the sponsorship of the Park & Recreation Department, City of San Diego, California

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2007
February 20
April 17
June 19
October 16
Casa del Prado, Room 101
Balboa Park, San Diego

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Information: 949-499-5518
P. O. Box 742
Laguna Beach CA 92652-0742 marshab@gte.net

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Art for Home and Garden
Suja Pritchard, ceramic artist 619-469-6501
fairygardens@cox.net/www.inmyfairygarden.com

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30861 Saddleback Rd.
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P. O. Box 230005
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2125 Park Blvd. sdbgf@nethere.com
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404 Third Ave.
San Diego, CA 92101-6803

SAN DIEGO ZOO
Horticulture Dept. 619-231-1515 Ext. 4298
P. O. Box 120551
San Diego, CA 92112-0551

SOUTHWESTERN JUDGES COUNCIL
Chair: Nancy Abernethy 760-742-1842
P. O. Box 876
Pauma Valley, CA 92061-0876
1st Wed - 10:30 a.m., Sep., Nov., Jan., Mar., May, North County Fair, Escondido, Community Room

TAKA SUMI-E SOCIETY
Contact: Takashi Ijichi 619-255-2501
1455 49th St.
San Diego, CA 92102-2625
1st Sun - 9:00-11:00 a.m., Casa del Prado
Feb., Mar., Apr., Sep., Oct., Nov.

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN
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12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. W
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La Jolla, CA 92038-2711

MASTER LANDSCAPE SERVICES, INC.
3089C Clairemont Drive #296 619-296-9687
San Diego, CA 92117-6802

SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR, PAUL ECKE JR. FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW
858-792-4273
2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd.
Del Mar, CA 92014-2216
Email: flowershow@sdfair.com

SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
Vickie V. Driver 858-522-6760
4677 Overland Ave.
San Diego, CA 92123-1233
Email: vdriver@sdcwa.org

THE SAN DIEGO HERB CLUB
Pres.: Judy Dunning/Cindi Lohry 619-579-0222
200 Highline Trail
El Cajon, CA 92021-4082

JIM STELLUTI CONSULTING LANDSCAPE ARTIST
1928 Madison Ave. 619-298-7641
San Diego, CA 92116-2722

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Pres: Carlette Anderson 619-445-5716
2451 Night Star Ct.
Alpine, CA 91901-1449
1st Fri - 10:00 am, Homes of Members

BERNARDO GARDENERS
Pres: Veleta Camozzi 858-487-0771
17685 Cumana Terrace
San Diego, CA 92128-1813
3rd Thu - 1:30 pm, Rancho Bernardo Library

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Lynne Batchelor 858-451-6764
16048 Caminito Aire Puro
San Diego, CA 92128-3557
2nd Wed - 9:30 a.m., Bonita Public Library

BRIDGE AND BAY GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Claudette Harshberger 619-435-6042
1217 Alameda Blvd.
Coronado, CA 92118-2710
4th Mon - 9:30 a.m., Winn Room, Coronado Public Library

CARLSBAD GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Anne Smith 760-931-9863
3358 Don Diablo Dr.
Carlsbad, CA 92010-3914

CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Betsy Cory 619-656-8669
P.O. Box 57
Chula Vista, CA 91912-1016
3rd Thu - 11:45 a.m., Norman Park Senior Center

CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
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P. O. Box 180188
Coronado, CA 92118-0188

CROWN GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Jeanne Bowers
P.O. Box 180476
Coronado, CA 92178-0476
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DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB
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P. O. Box 123
Valley Center, CA 92082-0123
2nd Tue - 12:30 p.m., Valley Center Com. Hall

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Pres: Judy Farnan 760-451-0792
P. O. Box 1702
Fallbrook, CA 92088-1702
3rd Wed - 7:00 p.m., FPUD Bldg. on Mission Rd.
Last Thu - 9:30 a.m., Fallbrook Presbyterian Church on Stage Coach

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16049 Vista de Golf
San Diego, CA 92091-4340
2nd Mon - 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members

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Pres: Ann Massey 858-292-9414
P. O. Box 2713
La Jolla, CA 92038-2713
3rd Tue - 1:30 p.m., L.J.Lutheran Church

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Pres: Vernon Bluhm 760-745-1219
710 W. 13th Ave. G118
Escondido, CA 92025
Email: vbluhm@cox.net
4th Mon. 2:00 p.m. Rancho Bernardo Library

LAS JARDINERAS
Pres: Julie Warren 619-298-7043
3919 Portola Place
San Diego, CA 92103-2705
3rd Mon - 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members

MIRACOSTA HORT. CLUB OF OCEANSIDE
Co-Presidents: Felicia Moscinski 760-726-4047
809 Olive Ave., #40
Vista, CA 92083-3373
Don Nelson 760-630-3580
952 Park Hill Drive
Escondido, CA 92025-4853
Email: donnelson12sbcglobal.net
3rd Sat - 12:45 p.m., MiraCosta Community College, Student Center Bldg. (upstairs)
Meetings Sep through Jun ONLY

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Kathy Jones 619-546-6051
4019 Goldfinch St., #166
San Diego, CA 92103
4th Wed - 6:30 p.m., Mission Hills United Church of Christ at 4070 Jackdaw St.

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Nancy Hurlburt 619-223-3315
P.O. Box 8382
San Diego, CA 92166-0382
2nd Wed - 10:00 a.m., Portuguese Hall
2818 Avenida de Portugal

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Rosemary Anderson & Lucille Rosicky
P. O. Box 27 858-486-8969
Poway, CA 92074-0027
2nd Wed., 9:00 a.m., Templars Hall or Lake Poway

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Marci Shirley 760-789-8880
P.O. Box 1412
Ramona, CA 92065
2nd Wed - 12:00 noon Ramona Women's Club

RANCHO SAN DIEGO GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Carol Wells 619-749-8325
1818 Sonetts Dr., El Cajon, CA 92019
3rd Tuesday each month at 9:30 a.m.

RANCHO SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Hal Sexton 858-756-1554
P. O. Box 483
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067-0483

SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Marj Myers 619-448-3613
9241 Galston Dr.
Santee, CA 92071-1510
4th Tue - 9:30 a.m., Homes of Members

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Pres: Susi Torre-Bueno 760-295-7089
P. O. Box 231869 www.sdhortsoc.org
Encinitas, CA 92023-1869
2nd Mon - 6:30 pm, except June
Surfside Race Place
Del Mar Fairgrounds, Jimmy Durante Blvd.

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Rita Koczela 760-804-7366
7585 Navigator Cir.
Carlsbad, CA 92011-5405
4th Wed - 9:30 a.m., Quail Bot. Gardens

VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA
Pres: Ann Craig 858-454-4117
1802 Amalfi St.
La Jolla, CA 92037-3803
4th Thu., 10:00 a.m., Torrey Pines Christian Church

VISTA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Karen England 760-214-3685
P. O. Box 44
Vista, CA 92085-0044
1st Fri - 12:00 noon, Vista Senior Center

IKEBANA SCHOOLS:

ICHIYO SCHOOL OF IKEBANA SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Pres: Haruko Crawford 619-660-2046
10411 San Carlos Dr.
Spring Valley, CA 91978-1034

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119
Pres: Hiroko Fukuhara 858-673-3635
16204 Selva Dr.
San Diego, CA 92128
4th Wed - 10:00 a.m., Casa del Prado

IKENOBO CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO
Pres: Mrs. Charles Oehler 858-278-5689
2822 Walker Dr.
San Diego, CA 92123-3056

OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA LA JOLLA CHAPTER
P. O. Box 500765 858-672-7850
San Diego, CA 92150-0765
2nd Tues - 10:00 a.m., La Jolla Library

OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Pres: Akiko Bourland 858-273-5899
2936 Havasupai Ave.
San Diego, CA 92117-1641

SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA SAN DIEGO BRANCH
Director: Hiroko Szechinski 858-571-6137
10830 Montego Dr.
San Diego, CA 92124-1421

SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA
Master Instructor: Sumiko Lahey 619-429-6198
2829 Flax Dr.
San Diego, CA 92154-2160

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AFRICAN VIOLET

CARLSBAD AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Pres: Patty Regan 760-295-0484
2000 S. Melrose Dr. #119
Vista, CA 92081
4th Mon - 10:30 a.m. - Vista Library, 700 Eucalyptus Ave.

BEGONIA

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
Pres: Doris Smith 619-222-1294
4505 Long Branch Ave.
San Diego CA 92107-2333
2nd Tue - 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members

MABEL CORWIN BRANCH AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
Pres: Dean Turney 760-942-1919
467 Fulvia
Encinitas, CA 92024-2146
2nd Sun - 1:30 p.m., except May & Aug.
Quail Gardens

MARGARET LEE BRANCH AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
Pres: Michael Ludwig 619-262-7535
6040 Upland St.
San Diego CA 92114-1933
Last Sat - 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members

BONSAI

HON NON BO ASSOCIATION
Pres: Brenda Storey 858-689-0957
9976 Dauntless St.
San Diego, CA 92126-5514
1st Sun. every other month (begin Feb.)
10:30 a.m., Casa del Prado

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC.
Information: 619-699-8776
P. O. Box 40037
San Diego CA 92164-0037
2nd Sun. - 10:30 a.m., Casa del Prado, Rm. 101
Beginning & intermediate classes at 9:00 am before meeting

CLUB AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES (*continued*)

BROMELIAD

BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK
Pres: Joann Dossett 619-299-4115
2871 Brant St.
San Diego, CA 92103-6119
2nd Tue. - 7:00 p.m., Casa del Prado

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY
Pres: Robert Vitacco619-469-3539 (weekends only)
www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html
P. O. Box 83996
San Diego, CA 92138-3966
2nd Sat., 10:00 a.m., Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

CACTUS & SUCCULENT

PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
P. O. Box 840
Escondido, CA 92033
4th Sat - 12:15 p.m., Joslyn Sr. Ctr., Escondido

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
Pres: Mark Fryer 619-795-1020
P. O. Box 33181
San Diego, CA 92163-3181
2nd Sat - 1:00 p.m., Casa del Prado

CAMELLIA

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY
Pres: E. C. (Gene) Snooks 858-454-6659
6114 La Jolla Blvd.
La Jolla, CA 92037-6702
3rd Wed. - 7:00 p.m., Casa del Prado
Meetings Nov. through Apr. ONLY

DAHLIA

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY
Pres: David J. Tooley 858-672-2593
11375 Nawa Way
San Diego, CA 92129-1116
Email: djsj21643@aol.com
4th Tue. - 7:30 p.m., Casa del Prado

DAYLILY (HEMEROCALLIS)

SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY
Contact: Betsy Hamblin 858-483-5584
851 Opal St.
San Diego, CA 92109-1780
1st Sat. - 10:00 a.m., Sep. through May
Quail Gardens

EPIPHYLLUM

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY
Pres: Mildred V. Mikas 858-485-5414
P. O. Box 126127
San Diego, CA 92112-6127
Website: www.epiphyllum.com
2nd Wed. - 7:30 p.m., Casa del Prado

FERN

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY
Pres: Sherry Worthen 858-278-2017
3141 Cabrillo Mesa Dr.
San Diego, CA 92123-2945
3rd Thu. - 7:30 p.m., Casa del Prado

FRUIT

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS
Chair: David Silverstein
4722 Coronado Ave.
San Diego, CA 92107-3543
4th Thu. - 7:00 p.m., Casa del Prado
Nov. & Dec. ONLY, 3rd Thu.

GERANIUM

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY
Pres: Jim Budlove 619-287-6299
6404 Zena Dr.
San Diego, CA 92115-7026
2nd Tue. - 7:00 p.m., Casa del Prado

HERB

THE SAN DIEGO HERB CLUB
Copresidents: Judy Dunning and Cindi Lohry
619-579-0222
Meetings on the 1st Wed. of every month at 7:00 p.m., Balboa Park
Casa del Prado, Room 101

IRIS

SAN DIEGO/IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY
Pres: Leon Vogel 951-677-5587
26440 St. Ives Ct., Murrieta, CA 92563-6087
2nd Sun. - 1:00 p.m.
Call for newsletter and location

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY IRIS SOCIETY
Pres: Eileen Fiumara 818-986-4188
4512 Sunnyslope Ave.
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423-3119
1st Thu. - 7:30 p.m. - Canoga Park Women's Club
7401 Jordan, Canoga Park

NATIVE PLANTS

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SAN DIEGO CHAPTER **916-447-2677**
P. O. Box 121390 www.cnpssd.org
San Diego, CA 92112-1390
3rd Tue - 7:00 p.m., Casa del Prado

LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB
Pres: Yolanda Fleet 760-745-1219
3045 Felicita Rd.
Escondido, CA 92029-6725
4th Mon. - 2:00 p.m. - Rancho Bernardo Library, 2nd floor

ORCHID

SAN DIEGO COUNTY CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY A BRANCH OF THE CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.
Pres: Loren Ellsworth 858-748-8355
14730 Dash Way
Poway, CA 92064-2914
3rd Wed. - 7:00 p.m., Carlsbad Women's Club

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY
Pres: Genie Hammond 619-426-6831
P. O. Box 161020
San Diego, CA 92176-1020
1st Tue. - 7:30 p.m., Casa del Prado

ORGANIC

BONITA ORGANIC GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Ron Nordfelt 619-475-8086
935 Rawhide Ct.
Bonita, CA 91902-2422
4th Tue. - 7:00 p.m., Bonita Valley Baptist Church at 4701 Sweetwater Rd. Meeting in back. EXCEPT Aug. & Dec.

PLUMERIA

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY
Pres: Joy Herzog 619-443-4795
P. O. Box 20553
El Cajon, CA 92021-0940
4th Sun. - 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m., Feb. through Oct.
Casa del Prado, Room 102
Email: c.herzog@att.net

ROSE

EAST COUNTY ROSE SOCIETY
Pres: Mark Steckbauer 619-401-9625
777 Hacienda Dr.
El Cajon, CA 92020-1711
Website: www.eastcountyrosesociety.com
1st Sun - 2:00 p.m., except July & Aug.
Gardens of Members

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY
Pres: Ruth Tiffany 619-462-5753
6705 Maury Dr.
San Diego, CA 92119-2020
www.sdrosesociety.org
3rd Mon. - 7:30 p.m., Casa del Prado
EXCEPT Jan. & Feb. - 4th Mon.
No meetings July & Aug.

TREES

PEOPLE FOR TREES
Contact: Pat Stevenson 619-222-TREE
P. O. Box 120505 FAX 619-223-TREE
San Diego, CA 92112-0505
Email: adoglover1@juno.com
4th Tue. - 6:30 p.m., 743 Imperial Ave.

WATER GARDEN

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER GARDEN SOCIETY
Pres: Ed Simpson 760-436-3704
1302 Avocado Rd.
Oceanside, CA 92054-5702
3rd Sun - Apr. through Oct.
Website: groups.yahoo.com/group/sdwatergarden
Email: dc@pondplants.com
Call for meeting information.

AFFILIATES:
Send changes to Affiliates Editor, California Garden, 1650 El Prado #105, San Diego, CA 92101-1622. Call 619-232-5762
Email: membership@sdfloral.org
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Kate Sessions's Legacy

"Elsie Topham was the librarian at the San Diego Floral Association in the 1980s to early 1990s. Originally from England, she was a retired professional librarian with a deep love of plants and flowers. She was intimately familiar with the library's contents and deeply aware of the personal relationship its collections held with the founding members. She shared her insight in this lovely tribute to Kate Sessions and her contributions in our May/June 1989 issue."—Lucy Warren

Kate Sessions was once a school teacher. She is known and loved in San Diego as a pioneer horticulturist and gardener, and her memory remains as green as the trees she planted in Balboa Park. There must be others who, like myself, say a quiet, "Thank you, Kate" whenever they walk or drive along 6th Avenue; but I wonder how many know that when Kate first arrived, she worked not among plants in gardens but among children in school.

The urge to teach and to inform never left her, and nowhere is this instinct more evident than in the files of the San Diego Floral Association's *California Garden*, which has been in continuous publication since 1909. Kate wrote many items and articles, and her contributions are as fresh today in 1989 as when they appeared so many years ago. Through these pages we can meet her as a lively personality whose interest in books made her a staunch supporter of the library of the Floral Association.

On the shelves today are books that belonged to Kate and that bear her signature of ownership. Especially interesting is a 56-volume set of bound copies of *The Garden*, which was given to SDFA by Miss Sessions in 1925. Here, in her words, is the story of how these books arrived in San Diego. Kate visited William Robinson at his home in England, and she describes her tour of the gardens and the conversation.

"Discussing the flower books I had been seeing in London, I told of engaging the *Garden Illustrated* magazine, Mr. Robinson's own work for fifty years, but the set was short two volumes. I asked his assistance in securing them, and finally the fact that he would part with his own personal set complete and bound was modestly advanced. So I asked for time to consult the book dealer for a release of my order, which they very graciously gave, and so in a few days, the Robinson set was paid for and shipped to De Lau & Co., to be reboxed for the long journey, via Panama Canal, to its new home with the San Diego Floral Association."

This account, together with Kate's review of the magazine, appears in *California Garden* for November 1925; and here, writing the previous month, is the regular columnist *The Early Bird* talking about this gift: "The books are a complete set, substantially bound in half morocco, of the best horticultural magazine in England during the last century, *Garden Illustrated*, consisting of fifty-six large volumes, each one containing many full-page illustrations in color, all the highest examples of color printing. Practically all the new and rare introductions of the period are represented and, with the index to each volume, it is easily possible to follow the development of any flower, tree, or shrub. As a book of reference it is invaluable."

Kate Sessions was a very active member of the Floral Association, and there were others who worked long and hard to nurture the SDFA library. Over the years the book collection has been enriched by many bequests and gifts, and the locked book case contains some rare books that are real treasures. The record of all this is clearly seen in past issues of *California Garden* and in the library's accessions book. But by the early 1980s the need for reorganization and reconstruction was apparent (I think Kate would have been very vocal on this point), and it is to the credit of the SDFA presidents who served during these years that they saw to it that a renaissance was accomplished. Today the library owns some 3,200 books, plus a selection of magazines and a substantial pamphlet file. It answers a wide range of questions and provides resource information for those who browse its shelves. I like to think that William Robinson would be pleased with the outcome of his gesture. As for Kate, I wonder what she would say if she could see us now. It is an intriguing speculation.

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